

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 175064
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S E C R E T STATE 175064

EXDIS GENEVA FOR AMB YOUNG FROM UNA

FOLLOWING REPEAT TEHRAN 6550 ACTION SECSTATE DATED JUL 10:

QTE: S E C R E T TEHRAN 6550

EXDIS

FROM UNDER SECRETARY NEWSOM

EO 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: MASS, IR
SUBJ: AUDIENCE WITH THE SHAH: IRANIAN ARMS REQUEST

REF: STATE 172841

SUMMARY: SHAH DISAPPOINTED AT NEGATIVE RESPONSE ON WILD WEASEL. IN CONTEXT TOTAL IRANIAN LONG TERM PROCUREMENT PROJECTION, HE NOTED LIST HAD BEEN PREPARED BEFORE AFGHAN COUP, WHICH HAD LEFT IRAN "FIVE YEARS BEHIND" IN EAST.
SHAH RECEIVED RESULTS OF RECENT PRC MEETING POSITIVELY.

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IN RESPONSE TO MY DISCUSSION OF PRESIDENT'S ARMS CEILING,
HE INDICATED HE WOULD CONCENTRATE IRANIAN PURCHASES ON
KEEPING AIR FORCE AMERICAN EQUIPPED. END SUMMARY.

1. DURING MY AUDIENCE WITH THE SHAH ON JULY 9, I EMPHASIZED IMPORTANCE WE ATTACH TO OUR CLOSE RELATIONSHIP WITH IRAN, AND INFORMED HIM OF THE RESULTS OF THE RECENT PRC MEETING

FOLLOWING REFTEL IN FULL DETAIL. I ADDED THAT WE EXPECTED U.S. SHIPBUILDERS TO BE PERMITTED TO BID ON THE SHIPS AND THAT, IF HE WERE AGREEABLE, A DOD/STATE TEAM WOULD COME TO TEHRAN IN LATE SUMMER TO WORK OUT THE DETAILS OF THE LONG TERM PROGRAMMING. IN VIEW OF THE PRESIDENT'S ARMS CEILING, THE SHAH WOULD HAVE TO MAKE THE DECISIONS ON WHAT HE WISHED TO PURCHASE FROM US AND WHAT EQUIPMENT HE WOULD HAVE TO FOREGO OR PURCHASE ELSEWHERE.

2. THE SHAH WAS CLEARLY VERY DISAPPOINTED WITH MY INABILITY TO GIVE A POSITIVE RESPONSE TO HIS REQUEST FOR THE WILD WEASEL. HE SAID THAT THE ABSENCE OF "ELECTRONIC ANTI-RADIATION GADGETS" COULD CRIPPLE HIS FORCES AND UNDO ALL HIS MILITARY EXPENDITURES. IF HIS AIR FORCE HAD TO FIGHT IN A HEAVY SAM ENVIRONMENT, THE LOSSES WOULD BE SO GREAT BY THE THIRD STRIKE THAT HIS AIR FORCE WOULD BE FINISHED TO ALL PRACTICAL EXTENT AND UNABLE TO PROTECT THE GROUND FORCES. AT THIS POINT I REITERATED OUR UNDERSTANDING OF HIS PROBLEM AND OUR INTENTION TO CONTINUE TO CONSIDER HIS NEED FOR ANTI-RADIATION WEAPONS.

3. CONCERNING MY COMMENTS ON THE CEILING, HE SAID THAT WAS EXACTLY WHY HE TURNED TO THE DUTCH AND GERMAN FOR FRIGATES. FROM THAT PART OF THE CEILING GIVEN TO IRAN HE WANTED TO BUY THE BEST AND KEEP HIS AIR FORCE AMERICAN EQUIPPED; OTHER ITEMS WOULD HAVE TO BE SOUGHT ELSEWHERE.

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4. AT A LATER POINT IN OUR DISCUSSION HE REFERRED BACK TO THE LONG TERM PROCUREMENT LIST AND WANTED TO REMIND US THAT IT HAD BEEN PREPARED BEFORE THE AFGHAN COUP. HIS MILITARY PREPARATIONS IN THE EAST, HE NOTED, WERE IN EFFECT FIVE YEARS BEHIND SCHEDULE; THE COUP HAD OCCURRED EARLIER THAN EXPECTED. NAAS UNQTE CHRISTOPHER

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